

INDUCED ABORTIONS

Induced terminations of pregnancy (abortions) have been reported to the department since July 1, 1974, when the Montana Abortion Control Act was implemented. States no longer report induced abortions to the National Center for Health Statistics and few states exchange resident abortion statistics. For these reasons, national abortion rates are estimates based on incomplete reporting and Montana's complete resident abortion statistics are unknown. The statistics provided in this report are for those abortions occurring in Montana, and any references to Montana residents must be viewed as incomplete. **Figure 62** shows the ratio of abortions performed in Montana to live births occurring in Montana since 1975.

Beginning in 1975, the first full year of reporting, and continuing on to the early eighties, the ratio of abortions performed in Montana to the number of live-born babies delivered in the state increased rapidly; the ratio was 129.9 in 1975 and rose to a peak of 295.6 in 1983. The trend reached another near peak (295.2) in 1990. From 1990 to the present, it has trended downward, varying unpredictably in some years. The ratio was 193.8 in 2003, the lowest ratio since 1976. This low rate reflects both the smallest number of induced abortions (2,213) performed in the state since 1976 and the largest number of births (11,418) occurring here since 1989.

Figure 62

RATIO OF INDUCED ABORTIONS TO LIVE BIRTHS MONTANA OCCURRENCES, 1975-2003

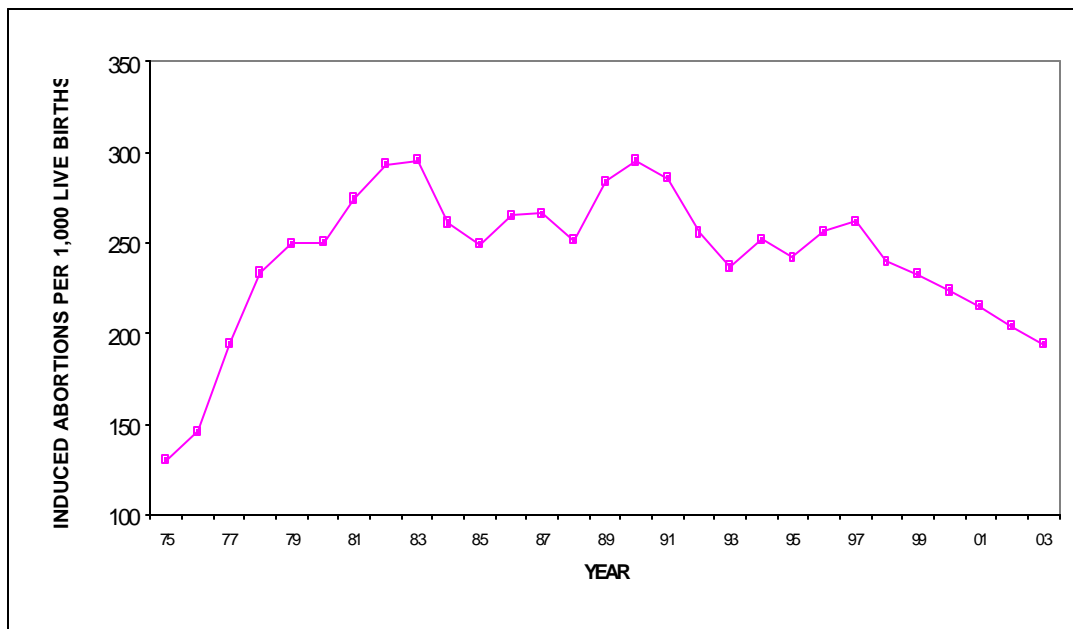


Table A-1 displays Montana occurrence abortions by the patient's number of previous pregnancies and number of previous induced abortions for 2003.

The frequency of induced abortion, for Montana females receiving the procedure in Montana in 2003 is also tabulated by age of patient (**Table A-2**) and by gestational age and procedure used for termination and gestational age of the fetus (**Table A-3**).

Table A-4 displays Montana occurrence abortions by county of occurrence, Montana county of residence, and state or country of residence.

There were no deaths, attributable to the procedure of induced abortion, of women receiving abortions in Montana in 2003. This has been the case in Montana since 1974.

Ten of the 2,213 abortion procedures performed in Montana in 2003 resulted in reported complications--one with cervical lacerations, one with uterine perforation, two with infection, three with hemorrhaging, and three with other complications.